

Resource Guide to

"SPECIAL NEEDS" ORGANIZATIONS

**Sponsored by the
SPECIAL NEEDS ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE**

SPECIAL NEEDS ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE

This resource guide was inspired and developed to help individuals, families and professions become aware of the ever expanding list of resources available in the Rochester area. These resources will help individuals with a disability on their journey through life, as well as helping those serving persons with a disability.

Information contained in this booklet was compiled in cooperation with representatives of the organizations listed here and distributed under the name of "Special Needs" Organizations Committee (SNOCs). The resources are listed under five headings: Education, Employment/Day Programs, Recreation/Activities, Residential, and Resource.

The content of this guide is for informational purposes only and not an endorsement of the services provided by the businesses or resources listed.

SNOCS – 2007

EDUCATION

SERVICES – RCTC CAMPUS

(507)280-2968

MN Relay TTY (800)627-3529

Disability Support Services mission is to provide academic support services to assist students with disabilities in achieving their educational goals. Disability Support Services is located in the University Center Rochester, in the Student Support Services office.

OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS PROGRAM - RCTC

Vicky Keller (507)529-2722

Vicky.keller@roch.edu

The Occupational Skills Program provides individuals with mild to moderate disabilities the vocational training necessary to obtain and maintain competitive entry level employment. The target population is individuals outside of a sheltered work environment who are unable to succeed in traditional college coursework. OSP is a nine month diploma program. Specific skills needed for employment are taught at the workplace where the student receives training. www.rctc.edu/catalog/programs

PACTT

Rachel Weitzel (507)535-7101

pact@abcinc.org

PACTT – People Achieving Change Through Technology is a program of Ability Building Center providing a variety of assistive technology options in order to enhance independence. PACTT provides: a loan program of assistive technology tools, assessments, computer training, another options to enhance individual's abilities.

ROCHESTER CENTER FOR AUTISM

Mandy Eggert (507)424-3234

mandyeggert@rcautism.com

The Rochester Center for Autism is a center-based program that provides one-on-one Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism. ABA therapy works on the three main impairment areas: communication, social interaction and stereotyped, restricted patterns of behavior. The Center provides assessment, recommendations and administers treatment with ongoing consultation to families in the program. For more details go to www.rcautism.com.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

Student Support Services

Mickey Curtis (507)328-4310

micurtis@rochester.k12.mn.us

www.rochester.k12.mn.us

Student Support Services provides support in the following **Special Education areas:**

- * Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- * Deaf/Hard of hearing (DHH)
- * Developmental Adapted Physical Education (DAPE)
- * Developmental Cognitive Disabilities – Mild/Moderate (CDC-MM)
- * Developmental Cognitive Disabilities – Severe/Profound (DCD-SP)
- * Early Childhood Special Ed (ECSE)
- * Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (EBD)
- * Occupational Therapy (OT)
- * Other Health Disabilities (OHD)

- * Physically Impaired (PI)
- * Physical Therapy (PT)
- * Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- * Speech/Language Impairments
- * Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- * Visually Impaired (VI)
- * Work Experience Handicapped

ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY -

Adaptive Computer Workstation

(507)285-8002

hearing impaired (507)297-2110

The Rochester Public Library has an adaptive computer workstation for people who are blind, have low vision, or reading/learning disabilities. The workstation is equipped with adaptive technology which allows people with visual disabilities to use the library's online catalog and surf the internet. The workstation is located on the 2nd floor of the library and is available during library hours.

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

EMPLOYMENT DAY PROGRAMS

ABILITY BUILDING CENTER (ABC)

Brett Graham (507)535-7132

brettg@abcinc.org

The mission of the Ability Building Center is to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Minnesota by providing rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and other special needs. ABC provides vocational rehabilitation and production services of individuals and businesses throughout SE MN.

Individualized, person centered programs and service options allow each person to choose their own path toward becoming productive and fulfilled members of their own community. For more info go to www.abcinc.org.

CARING PARTNERS ADULT DAY PROGRAM – THE SALVATION ARMY

Doug Coop (507)288-3663

Caring Partners offers a supervised, structured and comprehensive programming with a variety of health, social and related support services in a protective setting. A variety of daily activities are available to encourage social interaction, recreation, rehabilitative training and skill building. A physical therapist outlines the daily 30 minute exercise routine.

www.usc.salvationarmy.org

OPPORTUNITY SERVICES (OS)

Amber Gauerke – (507) 252-1597

amberg@oppserv.org

The mission of Opportunity Services is to facilitate adults with disabilities to make meaningful, individual contributions in the community. Our vision is to see communities openly engaging in contributions from people with disabilities. We provide our clients the chance to learn and grow through job opportunities and community

experiences. Clients in turn experience pride, independence and a sense of belonging in their community. Our services in Rochester include a Community Immersion Program, Community Living Program and Enhanced Program. For more info please visit www.oppserv.org.

POSSABILITIES OF SOUTHERN MN

Administration Office

(507)281-6116

A non-profit agency dedicated to providing meaningful work and community opportunities for adults and youth with disabilities. PossAbilities is proud to offer a team of dedicated, energetic staff trained in working with individuals with disabilities. Support areas include: Supported Employment; Life Enrichment; Senior Services; Alzheimer's and Dementia programs; Employer of Record; School-to-Work; and Youth Recreation (after school and summer). www.possabilities.org

RECREATION/ ACTIVITIES

GIRL SCOUT OF MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEYS

Marlene Jehnke

(507)288-4703 ext.108

marlene.jehnke@girlscoutsvr.org

Girl Scouting is for every girl, everywhere! Activities include learning the Girl Scout Promise, games, songs, crafts, and having lots of fun with friends. For more information contact Marlene or check the website at www.girlscoutsvr.org.

GREAT RIVER EARTH ADVENTURE TRIPS

(507)273-2636 oxbowtom@msn.com

Great River Earth Adventure Trips established to allow mentally and physically disabled individuals to be able to experience the wonders and beauty of the

outdoors. Being outdoors is an ideal way for our participants to experience independence, improve social skills, and increase self-esteem in a very exciting environment. The programs are designed to meet the needs of the individual and refined to provide the precise kind of wilderness and outdoor experience that our participants seek. Because the trips are fairly small the ratio is one leader for every 3-4 participants. All participants have the opportunity to get to know one another and form close friendships.

www.greatrivertrips.com/default.aspx

IRONWOOD SPRINGS RANCH

Bob Bardwell (533)6707-4315

Bob@ironwoodsprings.com

Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch is a non-profit, non-denominational, year-round camp located along the Root River in SE Minnesota on 200 acres of woods, trails, and wildlife. Ironwood serves over 22,000 people annually. Camps include: Wheelchair Sports Camp, various horseback riding week-long and day camps, teen camps, grandparent and grandchild camp, family camp, among others. Get more details at www.ironwoodsprings.com.

J.E.T.S. GYMNASTICS

(507)285-9262

jetsgym@hotmail.com

J.E.T.S. holds Adaptive Gymnastics classes that focus on motor, social and cognitive development for children with special needs. Focus is on kinetic movement activities that help develop better spatial and body awareness. It will also improve upper and lower body strength by using gymnastics equipment such as trampolines, foam pits, balance beams, bars and various other obstacle courses that are set up. Classes are on Wednesdays at 4:15-5:00 for children 5 and under, and at 5:15-6:00 for children 6 and up. Classes taught by veteran coach Marion Squires who is presently pursuing a masters degree in Special Education at Winona State.

www.jetgym.com

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Adaptive Recreation Program

Karen Meyer (507)328-2539

kmever@rochestermn.gov

The Adaptive Recreation program is a year-round therapeutic sports and leisure program for persons 3 years and older with developmental disabilities. It is sponsored by the Rochester Park and Recreation Department. Activities include: swimming, bowling, soccer, softball, music therapy, choir, crafts, movie night, dances, summer day camps, etc. Find out more on the website at www.rochestermn.gov/parks

RIDEABILITY

Jeanie Michelizzi (507)356-8154

rideability@yahoo.com

RideAbility provides therapeutic, recreational and instructional horseback riding lessons and equine-related activities to individuals with disabilities and their families.

RideAbility is 100% run by volunteer staff. Classes are offered in four sessions per year. Youth from 4 to 21 years of age are served in June and July, and adults are served in the spring and fall. Private lessons are also available.

www.rideability.org.

ROCHESTER AREA DISABLED

ATHLETICS & RECREATION (RADAR)

Sadie Wermers (507)280-6995

radar@radarsports.org

Rochester Area Disabled Athletics & Recreation, Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting recreational and sporting opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The RADAR sports and recreation programs include: art workshop, archery, basketball, bowling, billiards, crafts, fishing, fitness, games, gardening, golf, movies, nutrition/cooking classes, outings, swimming, theater group and much more. For more information go to www.radarsports.org

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

Karen Ek

mirogers@rochester.k12.mn.us

kaek@rochester.k12.mn.us

The Rochester Community Education Adults with Disabilities Enrichment Program provides leisure and recreational activities for adults (18 and older) with disabilities. Focusing on individual abilities, rather than disabilities, people with developmental limitations discover the spirit of belonging and a sense of independence that enhances and enriches their lives. The program offers classes in the areas of Hobbies and Crafts, Leisure, Physical Fitness, Music and Art, and Community Awareness in its "Community Connections" brochure. The brochure is mailed each fall, winter, and spring directly to group homes or individuals. If you would like to receive a copy of the brochure, please call the Community Education office at (507) 328-4000 and you will be added to the mailing list. www.rochester.k12.mn

SPECIAL OLYMPICS – ROCHESTER AREA

Mindy Schroeder

(507)285-2638

specialolympicsrochester@hotmail.com

Special Olympics Rochester Area is a year-round sports training and competition program for persons 6 years of age through senior adult with intellectual disabilities. Sports offered include: Aquatics, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Golf and Track & Field. www.specialolympicsrochester.com

RESIDENTIAL

ARSYS, LLC

Kevin Smith, Todd Natzke,

Kevin Ward (507)536-9221

kevins@arsysllc.com

arsystoddn@qwest.net

arsyskevinw@qwest.net

The mission of ARSYS (A Road to Support Your Self) is to provide the clients they serve with

opportunities and experiences that enrich their lives. ARSYS is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service and to being the best choice for their clients. ARSYS currently provides support to clients from age 5 to 62, serves approximately 100 clients and employs approximately 80 staff. They have a variety of different services to meet people's needs. ARSYS offers 1:1 in-home or in the community support services for those who live on their own, with family, or in foster care. Another service is a group program called CHIP (Community Home Integration Program) that provides support for clients to work on skill building and social skills in a 3 client to 1 staff ratio. A respite home serves up to 4 clients every weekend, during the week the home is used for the CHIP and 1:1 clients to work on skill development in a home setting. ARSYS also provides residential supports (SLS), and supports people in three group homes in Rochester, as well as having a division in Anoka, MN, that serves approximately 20 people through 1:1 and SILS services. All the services are designed by the clients and their team to meet their goals and desires.

BEAR CREEK SERVICES

Diane Sellner

(507)288-7195 ext.202

dianes@BearCreekServices.org

Bear Creek Services is a non-profit agency in Rochester providing support to adults with Developmental Disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Bear Creek Services provides residential options and support for each individual's needs for housing, employment, emotional support and recreational opportunities. Their vision is for each individual to reach their highest potential as citizens in the Rochester community. Contact Bear Creek Services for more information or to become a volunteer. www.bearcreekservices.org

CARDINAL OF MINNESOTA LTD.

Paula McGuine (507)281-1077

paula@cardinalofminnesota.com

Cardinal of Minnesota is a residential service provider that prides itself on an individualized approach to serving it's clients with developmental disabilities. We work with staff and those we serve based on our mission of providing a safe, happy living environment for our clients. We provide services in home settings developed by the agency, or we can provide services in the client's own home. Our services include: assisting with personal cares, recommended therapies, medications, community integration, independent living skills, activities and medical needs.

HIAWATHA HOMES, INC.

Karolee Adler & Sue Rostad
(507)289-7222 kadler@hiawathahomes.com
srostad@hiawathahomes.com

Hiawatha Homes, Inc. is a local non-profit agency that is dedicated to establishing and conducting home and community based services for people with disabilities and specialized medical needs. Hiawatha Homes, Inc. serves children, adults and families with developmental disabilities, physical impairments, traumatic brain injury, specialized medical needs, limited mental health issues, autism spectrum disorder and other health disabilities. Since opening the Children's home in 1976, Hiawatha Homes has expanded to become a diversified system of family support services and twenty-one community based homes. Today, over 130 individuals benefit from all the programs and services: nursing and support therapies, recreational activities, community involvement, advocacy for people supported by Hiawatha Homes and respite support. Hiawatha Homes and the Family Support Services program serve people of all ages and offer opportunities for: life time skills and personal needs training; recreational and social activities; community involvement. LEEP is a program for school-aged children who have disabilities. Hiawatha's In-Home program is for individuals of all ages who have a disability and still live in their family home or in foster care. Individuals receiving these services have 1:1 staffing

and the program runs 365 days a year with flexible service hours. Services are customized to the individual's needs. www.hiawathahomes.com

MAINS'L SERVICES, Inc.

Tanya Keller (507)289-4463

TKeller@mainsl.com

Mains'l provides community alternatives for children and adults with mental health considerations. Mains'l can help with all aspects of a person's life, both self enrichment and daily living routines. Supports are individually tailored, and focus on ensuring the person's health, safety and welfare, as well as encouraging people to work toward their independence. For more information go to www.mainsl.com

WING HOUSE, CORPORATION

Sadie Wermers

LaDeane Peterson (507)282-0868

ladeanep@chartermi.net

Wing House is a 22-bed transitional care facility designed to assist adult survivors of traumatic brain injuries.

A home-like environment is provided for people with brain injuries who exhibit cognitive impairments and behaviors which prevent them from living independently. The trained professionals of Wing House provide a structured environment which includes supportive supervision and behavioral intervention. For more info, www.winghouse.org

REM RIVER BLUFFS

(507)287-6824

REM Minnesota offers adults, children, young people and their families innovative, quality services and supports that lead to growth and independence, regardless of the physical, intellectual or behavioral challenges they face. REM Minnesota's philosophy emphasizes partnerships – with those we serve, their families, our employees and the communities in which we work – in an effort to help people shape the

direction of their own lives in community-based settings.

RESOURCES

ARC OF SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

(507)287-2032 or (888)732-8520

office@arcse-mn.org

Arc of SE MN is a non-profit volunteer driven organization that builds inclusive communities by providing support, education and advocacy to persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

Arc provides community awareness through newsletter, seminars and media contacts. Parent training and education, as well as information and referral, scholarships, and support groups are all part of Arc services. Find out more at www.arcse-mn.org.

BLUESTEM CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Ann Schwanke (507)282-1009

1(888)283-1009

info@bluestemcenter.com

Bluestem Center specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of children, adolescents, and adults with neuro- developmental disorders, including:

- Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism and Asperger's Disorder
- Behavior changes after medical illness or injury
- Childhood Anxiety or Depression
- Developmental Delay Syndromes
- Habit and Tic Disorders of Childhood
- Learning and school problems, school refusal
- Mind/Body Medicine
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Oppositional and Conduct Disorders
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- Play Therapy
- Therapy addressing Attachment Issues
- Tourette's Syndrome

Other services include:

- Parent Training
- Psychological testing
- Treatment of physical and sexual abuse survivors
- Loss and grief counseling
- Couples therapy and marriage counseling
- Problem-focused groups for adults and teens

www.bluestemcenter.com

CH.I.L.D. PLAY

**Child Interaction and Learning
Development through Play**

Anne Harrington (612) 298-8037

harringtonab@yahoo.com

The P.L.A.Y. Project is a community based/regional autism training and early intervention program dedicated to empowering parents and professionals to implement intensive, developmental interventions for young children with autism in the most effective and efficient way. Anne Harrington is an Autism Resource Specialist, an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, a parent Educator P.L.A.Y. Project, and a DIR/Floortime Consultant. She has worked for MN Public Schools for over 20 years and has also been the ECSE Autism Program Coordinator for MN Schools since 2000.

www.playproject.org

**DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN &
ADOLESCENTS, LTD.**

Dr. Candace A. Mensing &

Dr. Robyn R. Loewen

(507)288-8060

www.dentistryforchildrenrochester.com

Dr. Mensing and Dr. Loewen specialize in dentistry for all children. They both have a great deal of experience in working with children who have special needs.

DISABILITY LINKAGE LINE

1-800-333-2466

Disability Linkage Line is a state-wide information and referral resource for Minnesotans with disabilities or chronic illnesses, their family members and service providers. The information is free of charge. www.MinnesotaHelp.info

**EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF
MINNESOTA**

Sue Ringhofer (507)287-2103

sringhofer@efmn.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota is a non-profit organization focused on enhancing the quality of life of those affected by seizures. The foundation is an affiliate of the National Epilepsy Foundation. Founded in 1954, the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota provides programs and services for those with epilepsy and those that care for and about them. The foundation provides: epilepsy education and awareness programs, information and referral services, advocacy and support, youth and family programs and used clothing donation center.

<http://www.efmn.org>

INCREDIBLE CONNECTIONS

Joanette Robertson (507) 281-3913

jrobertson@fccnetwork.org

Incredible Connections is a new preschool day treatment program in Rochester. The program provides a safe, nurturing, and experiential environment in which staff and the child's parents work collaboratively to improve a child's functioning at home, school, and in community settings. Incredible Connections is designed to improve the overall well-being of preschool children, helping children with: group readiness, relationships with adults, pro-social peer relationships, emotional regulation, and communication skills.

LOQUELLA

Speech & Language Services

Jennifer Leuthold (507) 206-6200

jen.leuthold@gmail.com

Loquella Speech & Language Services is a therapist-owned company dedicated to helping patients meet their full potential.

Our aim is to provide high quality speech and language services for individuals and their families based on experience, strong clinical skills, and a commitment to personal integrity of practices.

www.loquellaservices.com

**MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON
FOUNDATIONS**

Minnesota Grantmakers Online

www.mcf.org/mngrants/tour/MGOtour02.htm

The Minnesota Council on Foundations has the largest searchable databases of Minnesota grantmakers and grants.

NAMI OF SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA

(507)287-1692

nami-semn@nami.org

NAMI Southeast Minnesota is a grassroots non-profit organization comprised of mental health consumer, family members and professionals in our community who are dedicated to helping improve the lives of those affected by mental illness.

www.nami.org

**OLMSTED COUNTY MANAGEMENT
SERVICES**

Jane Clark (507)529-4575

Don Parsons (507)529-4585

Clark.jane@co.olmsted.mn.us

Parsons.don@co.olmsted.mn.us

Olmsted County Community Services are for persons with developmental disabilities and related conditions. A social worker reviews the family's specific needs and determines if there is a need for Case Management Services. Once service eligibility

is established, the case manager will: offer assistance in identifying the needs for supports and services; help develop an individual service plan; locate, access and authorize needed services; coordinate delivery of services; monitor services to ensure needs are being met.

PACER CENTER

Phone: (952)838-9000

TTY: (952)838-0190

PACER@PACER.ORG

Founded in 1977, PACER Center was created by parents of children and youth with disabilities to help other parents and families facing similar challenges. Today, PACER Center expands opportunities and enhances the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families. PACER is staffed primarily by parents of children with disabilities and works in coalition with 18 disability organizations. PACER's mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

PARENTING PLUS THROUGH PAIR

(507)328-4023

Parenting Plus provides early childhood and parent education for parents with cognitive disabilities. Placement is by referral

www.rochesterce.org/pair

PLAN OF SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA

(Planned Lifetime Assistance Network)

plan@arcse-mn.org

(507)287-2032 or

toll-free 1-888-732-8520

PLAN addresses the question, "Who will watch after my loved one when I am no longer able to do so?" PLAN provides supplemental care for persons with developmental or physical disabilities, mental illness and/or brain injury, on behalf of parents or caregivers who are no longer able to do so themselves. Plan

of SE MN serves: Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, rehabilitation and contract services Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona counties.

www.arcse-mn.org/plan.html

PROJECT C-3

(952)838-9000

toll-free (888)248-0822

email C3@c3online.org

Project C3 is a project of PACER Center, in cooperation with Pathways to Employment, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota State Council on Disability, and various state and local youth serving agencies. Project C3 is to improve transition outcomes for youth through facilitated collaboration, resource mapping, Communities of Practice, training, and advocacy.

REGION 10 QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION

Dan Zimmer (507)289-2032

danz@mn-voice.org

Initiated by the Region 10 Stakeholders Group, the QA Commission is comprised of people with disabilities, parents/advocates, providers and supports. The Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission is funded through the Minnesota State Legislature. The Quality Assurance Commission's mission is to ensure and enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. This is accomplished through the person-driven VOICE (Value of Individual Choices and Experiences) review process. This process is approved as an alternative licensing process in the participating counties. The QA Commission office is co-located with Arc SE MN.

REGION 10 STAKEHOLDERS BRAIN INJURY WORKGROUP

Harry R. Nevling (507)289-8989

hnevling@hotmail.com

The Region 10 Stakeholders is a group that called themselves together in December, 1985. The Stakeholders group is comprised of people with disabilities, parents/advocates, providers and supports. The Stakeholders promote information on disabilities and support through quality of life and legislative issues for those with disabilities. The BI workgroup is involved specifically with issues relating to BI survivors.

ROCHESTER AREA BRAIN INJURY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (BICC)

Harry R. Nevling (507)289-8989

hnevling@hotmail.com

The BICC is comprised of persons with brain injury, members of families affected by brain injury, and representatives from many agencies which provide services for persons with brain injury. Its mission is to coordinate and promote development of community resources for persons with traumatic and other acquired brain injury to enhance quality of life and community involvement.

ROCHESTER FAMILIES.COM

Lindy Lange (507)536-4856

lindv@rochesterfamilies.com

Rochester Families.com is a website for families in Rochester, MN. It provides information on family and kid-friendly events, activities, classes, organizations, resources, etc. Rochester Families is locally owned and free of charge. Just go to www.rochesterfamilies.com

RT AUTISM AWARENESS FOUNDATION, INC.

Brad Trahan

rtautism@yahoo.com

The RT Autism Awareness Foundation, Inc. is an organization devoted to making people aware of autism and the effects it has on the whole family.

The foundation aims to enhance the quality of life for children with autism and their families through support, advocacy, awareness and education. The foundation hosts an annual golf benefit, preceded by a free Beach Blanket Comedy Show. The RT Autism Awareness Foundation spearheaded Project Lifesaver in conjunction with the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department, and held the very first Autism Awareness Day at the Capitol in 2007. The RTAAF is also very much involved in advocacy for children with autism and their families throughout SE MN. The RTAAF published a newsletter periodically and it is available on the website. The RTAAF Support Group meets on a monthly basis. Check out the newsletter, find out more about Project Lifesaver and all upcoming events & schedules by going to www.rtautismawareness.org.

SEMCIL

(507)285-1815

semcil@semcil.org

The Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living, Inc. is a non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to become independent and productive community members. The Independent Living and Personal Care Assistance Programs promote self-sufficiency and help assure that persons with a disability have the same opportunities as members of the general public. For more information check the website at www.semcil.uhmc.org

SOCIAL ODYSSEY

Susan Powers (507)252-5790

<http://www.socialodyssey.webs.com/>

Social Odyssey is a support group for adults who have family members or friends with syndromes such as Asperger's or Highly Functioning Autism.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(SPRED)

Shirley Russo (507)289-2607

or Sharon Spencer (507)287-6426

SPRED is a non-denominational program for children and adults who are mentally challenged. Meetings are on Monday nights at Lourdes High School from 7-8 pm. Registration fee is \$25.00. Scholarships are available.

STANLEY JONES AND ASSOCIATES

INC. THERAPY SERVICES

Pat Hanks (507)288-0064

pattihanks@aol.com

Stanley Jones and Associates Therapy Services offers speech/language, occupational and physical therapy services for children and adults. Stanley Jones provides homecare and outpatient services to enable patients to achieve maximum independence and an enhanced quality of life. Learn more at www.sjatherapyservices.com

LOQUELLA SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Meeting Individual Communication Needs

Jennifer Leuthold (507) 206.6200.

We provide evaluation and individual/group therapy services for all ages, both children and adults, for individuals with speech and language impairments. We also provide Social Language Groups for children ages 3-18 with Asperger's Syndrome, high functioning Autism, and other disorders affecting social language skills.

For more information, visit our website at www.loquellaservices.com

UNITED WAY

April Sutor (507)287-1533

aprils@uwolmsted.org

The United Way works to unite people and resources to improve lives in Olmsted County. The organization is uniquely positioned to bring together

a diverse mix of resources and invest them strategically to help people and strengthen the community in more effective ways. The United Way is a partner in change, working with a broad range of people and organizations to identify and resolve pressing community issues. The 2-1-1 is a 24 hour information and referral service of the United Way that is free, confidential and multi-lingual. For more information go to www.uwolmsted.org

ZUMBRO VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

www.zumbromhc.org

(507)289-2089

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center exists to address the mental health and chemical health needs of community members, regardless of their social position or status. Our purpose is to improve the mental and chemical health of the communities we serve, thereby contributing to a safe, healthy Valley Residential Treatment. To learn more about ZVMHC and our programs and services, go to www.zumbromhc.org.

TRANSPORTATION

R & S TRANSPORT INC.

(507)289-5080

RST provides transportation for individuals with special needs or disabilities. The vans are equipped for a maximum of two occupants with wheelchairs. Rates are a little higher than regular taxi fares for general or recreational purposes.

ZIPs

(507)328-2439,

FAX (507)328-2401

TDD (507)328-2900

The Zumbro Independent Passenger Service (ZIPS) is a door-to-door transportation system for persons who cannot use Rochester City Lines' bus service due to a disability. All ZIPS vehicles are wheelchair accessible. The service is administered by the Rochester Department of Public Works. A private company under contract to the city provides operation of the service, including dispatching and drivers and maintenance.

Service Area

Includes the City of Rochester and four surrounding townships of Cascade, Haverhill, Marion, and Rochester.

Handi Van

(507) 281-3600

The concept at Handi Van is to offer premium, affordable, nationwide specialty transportation services for the disabled, handicapped, seniors, special need, pregnant women and your active children from tots to teens. They provide services to group homes, hospitals and nursing homes. They have a variety of transportation vans to meet your individual needs by professional, caring and courteous drivers that will treat you with the utmost respect during your time with us. Their drivers have completed training courses in defensive driving, first aid, abuse prevention and passenger assistance to make your transportation service as safe and comfortable as possible. Visit them at <http://myhandivan.com>